

“Who’s In God’s House?”

Hebrews 5:11 – 6:20

September 23, 2018

VIDEO: “We Are The Church”

INTRODUCTION:

- Let me ask you a few questions as we begin...
 - Who do you think that video is speaking to?
 - Who IS the Church?
 - How about: “Who is **NOT** the Church?”
 - Is he talking to everyone in the building?
 - How are we to know?
 - Where & how do we get our answers?
 - Do you have *debatable points*... or
 - Do you hold to *divine principles*?
- Understanding these Q&A’s is eternally important... AND at the heart of today...

BIG IDEA: Not everyone who’s in God’s house is in God’s family... & you *NEED* to understand the difference

T/S: Today we’re going to overview **Hebrews 5:11 – 6:20** ...we’ll come back for 2 more weeks, but today I want you to get an understanding of Hebrews’ 3rd of 5 warnings (*Don’t dilly-dally with God’s Word, will, or ways.*)

PREVIEW:

1. Warning the CHILDISH in Church
2. Warning the COUNTERFEITS in church
3. Warning the CHERISHED in Church

CONTEXT & PRE-REQUISITES: m M m

- **#1... we're in the Bible... What's it tell us?**
 - **Creator / Creation / Christ**
 - God is good/awesome all the time
 - Creation is fallen & broken...
 - Jesus Christ is the Answer for all!
 - **God's Word / Will / Way(s)**
 - **Worship /Witness/Spiritual Warfare**
 - Worship loves & faithfully obeys
 - Biblical witness is Spirit gifted!
 - True Church IS Spiritual warfare
 - **Shepherds & sheep**
 - **Wolves & goats**
- **#2... we're in the Book of Hebrews... It tells us...**
 - Exhorting a professing & persecuted church
 - 5 warnings with an inspirational application
 - It's Christ-exalting throughout the exhorting
- **#3... we're now coming to Warning #3**
 - EVERYONE in the church... **LISTEN Up!**
 - Some in the church need to... **GROW Up!**
 - Counterfeits in church better... **WAKE Up!**
 - God's children in church are to **STAND Up!**
 - The true Church can & will.... **SHOW Up!**

T/S: **Remember... biblical warnings are for ALL of us!**

***Points are opinions...
Positions are perspectives... but
Principles are timeless & universal truths!*** – JDP

***When your point is not sustained by principle,
your perspective is off & your position is wrong.*** – JDP

T/S: **Remember** [Hebrews 4:12ff](#)

- Whether we like it or not...
- You and I are... and... All of reality is...
- **We're all whatever God's Word says it is!**

The Gospel Coalition Article:

Charles Templeton first professed faith in 1936 and became an evangelist that same year. In 1945 he met Billy Graham and the two became friends, rooming and ministering together during a 1946 evangelistic tour in Europe.

But by 1948 Templeton's life and worldview were beginning to go in a different direction than Graham's. Doubts about the Christian faith were solidifying as he planned to enter Princeton Theological Seminary. Less than a decade later, he would publicly declare that he had become an agnostic.

In his 1996 memoir, **[Farewell to God: My Reasons for Rejecting the Christian Faith](#)**, Templeton recounted a conversation with Graham... prior to entering seminary:

All our differences came to a head in a discussion that explains Billy Graham and his phenomenal success as an evangelist.... In the course of our conversation I said, "But, Billy, it's simply not possible any longer to believe, for instance, the biblical account of creation. The world was not created over a period of days a few thousand years ago; it has evolved over millions of years. It's not a matter of speculation; it's a demonstrable fact.....I don't accept that," Billy said. "And there are reputable scholars who don't... But that is not the point. I believe the Genesis account of creation because it's in the Bible.

I've discovered something in my ministry: When I take the Bible literally, when I proclaim it as the word of God, my preaching has power. When I stand on the platform and say, 'God says,' or 'The Bible says,' the Holy Spirit uses me. There are results. Wiser men than you or I have been arguing questions like this for centuries. I don't have the time or the intellect to examine all sides of the theological dispute, so I've decided once for all to stop questioning and accept the Bible as God's word..."

At that point, **their 2 different trajectories had been chosen.**

I. Warning the CHILDISH in Church

A. LISTEN Up

Hebrews 5:11-14 (ESV) *About this/Concerning him, we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.*

- *About this...*
- *we have much to say*
- *it is hard to explain*
- *since you have become* (note the regression)
- *dull/sluggish of hearing*

- Our authoritative & defining truth
 - Word is Savior & Scripture
 - John 1:1ff
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - NO errors
 - NO excuses
 - Hebrews 4:12ff
- Our everlasting purpose & priority
- Our guidance for glorifying God

B. GROW Up

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, 13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 6:1-3 (ESV) ¹ *Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ And this we will do if God permits.*

II. Warning the COUNTERFEITS in church

WAKE Up!

Hebrews 6:4-8 (ESV) ⁴ *For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.*

VIDEO: “*Can A Christian Lose Their Salvation #1*”

⁷ *For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. ⁸ But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.*

VIDEO: “*Can A Christian Lose Their Salvation #2*”

III. Warning the CHERISHED in Church

Hebrews 6:9-20 (ESV)

Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation.

Fifty years later, Lee Strobel had an opportunity to interview Charles Templeton, who had just a couple of more years to live... In his book, [A Case for Faith](#), Strobel recounts the ending of their... conversation.

“...how do you assess this Jesus?”

Templeton’s body language softened. It was as if he suddenly felt relaxed and comfortable in talking about an old and dear friend. His voice, which at times had displayed such a sharp and insistent edge, now took on a melancholy and reflective tone. His guard seemingly down, he spoke in an unhurried pace, almost nostalgically, carefully choosing his words as he talked about Jesus..... “He was,” Templeton began, “the greatest human being who has ever lived. He was a moral genius. His ethical sense was unique. He was the intrinsically wisest person that I’ve ever encountered in my life or in my readings. His commitment was total and led to his own death, much to the detriment of the world. What could one say about him except that this was a form of greatness?” ...I was taken aback. “You sound like you really care about him,” I said.... “Well, yes, he is the most important thing in my life,” came his reply. “I... I... I...,” he stuttered, searching for the right word, ‘I know it may sound strange, but I have to say... I adore him!’ ...

"... Everything good I know, everything decent I know, everything pure I know, I learned from Jesus. Yes... yes. And tough! Just look at Jesus. He castigated people. He was angry. People don't think of him that way, but they don't read the Bible. He had a righteous anger. He cared for the oppressed and exploited. There's no question that he had the highest moral standard, the least duplicity, the greatest compassion, of any human being in history. There have been many other wonderful people, but Jesus is Jesus...."

"Uh... but... no," he said slowly, "he's the most..." He stopped, then started again. "In my view," he declared, "he is the most important human being who has ever existed."

That's when Templeton uttered the words I never expected to hear from him. "And if I may put it this way," he said as his voice began to crack, "I... miss... him!"

With that tears flooded his eyes. He turned his head and looked downward, raising his left hand to shield his face from me. His shoulders bobbed as he wept....

*Templeton fought to compose himself. I could tell it wasn't like him to lose control in front of a stranger. He sighed deeply and wiped away a tear. After a few more awkward moments, he waved his hand dismissively. Finally, quietly but adamantly, he insisted: **"Enough of that."***

T/S: Hebrews' 3rd warning exhorts us to learn, love, & live God's Word... while worshipping, working, & witnessing for Christ – with **TOTAL confidence!**

CLOSE: Listen to how the passage transitions...

¹⁰ For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.

¹¹ And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

VIDEO: “Piper & Jeremiah 32:40”

In Hebrews 6:13-20 everything is emphasizing the **GUARANTEES of The Gospel of Jesus Christ!**

¹³ when God made a promise... he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, “Surely I will... ¹⁷ when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it... ¹⁸ ...it is impossible for God to lie, we... have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. ¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul... ²⁰ ...Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf...

This is God’s Word! Amen & AMEN

Let’s Pray!